

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alex Krayner on 6/5/08.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

#### **Claim 44**

A method of protecting from modification computer apparatus comprising a plurality of functional modules, wherein the computer apparatus contains or is in communication with a trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted manner, the method comprising:

storing a module configuration of the computer apparatus providing an identification of each functional module in the computer apparatus, wherein the module configuration is stored on a smart card;

the trusted device performing a cryptographic identification process for modules with a cryptographic identity to identify them said modules and thereby determine an actual module configuration;

the trusted device comparing the actual module configuration against the stored module configuration, wherein the trusted device is adapted to

communicate securely with the stored module configuration; and

the trusted device inhibiting function of the computer apparatus while the actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module configuration.

**Claims 47-49 are canceled.**

**Claim 51**

A method as claimed in claim ~~48~~4, wherein a stored module configuration is held by a remote module validation authority and the remote validation authority provides a service allowing a replacement ~~security token~~ smart card to be provided if a ~~security token~~ smart card is lost or stolen.

**Claim 52**

Computer apparatus adapted for protection against modification, the computer apparatus comprising a plurality of functional modules, one of said modules being a trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted manner, the computer apparatus having a module configuration providing an identification of each functional module in the computer apparatus, wherein the trusted device is adapted to compare a module configuration of the computer apparatus against a stored module configuration by performing a cryptographic identification process for modules with a cryptographic identity to determine an actual module configuration and to compare the actual module configuration

against the stored module configuration, wherein function of the computer apparatus is inhibited while the actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module configuration, wherein the stored module configuration is stored on a smart card.

**Claim 57**

A method of protecting from modification computer apparatus comprising a plurality of functional modules by monitoring the configuration of functional modules within the computer apparatus, the method comprising:

storing a module configuration of the computer apparatus on a smart card, the module configuration being an identification of each functional module in the computer apparatus as validly formed, on a security token removably attachable to the computer apparatus; and

checking an actual module configuration against the stored module configuration, ~~and inhibiting function of the computer apparatus if the actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module configuration;~~

wherein the computer apparatus contains or is in communication with a trusted device adapted to respond to a user in a trusted manner and the trusted device ~~is adapted to perform the step of inhibiting~~inhibits function of the computer apparatus if the actual module configuration does not satisfactorily match the stored module configuration;

wherein the trusted device is adapted to communicate securely with the smart card.

**Claims 60-61 are canceled.**

**Claim 64**

A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the remote validation authority provides a service allowing a replacement ~~security token~~ smart card to be provided if a ~~security token~~ smart card is lost or stolen.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 44-46, 50-53, 57-59, and 62-67 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to the protection of configuration of modules in a computing apparatus. Today, most modules used in computing apparatus are standardized and freely interchangeable, they lower the assembly cost and repair cost for computer apparatus, however it is relatively easy for computer apparatus to be reassembled from stolen modules. According to the invention, the configuration of modules within a computer apparatus is protected and prevented of reuse of stolen modules in a new configuration. The unique features of the invention are recited in claims 44, 52 and 57. The closest prior arts fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Minh Dieu Nguyen/  
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